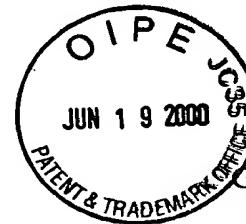


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



PATENT

Applicant: LAUDENBERG, Bernd

Serial No.: 09/024,510

Filed: Feb. 17, 1998

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR FILLING FLEXIBLE POUCHES**

Group Art Unit: 3751

Examiner: S. Douglas

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JUN 20 2000

AMENDMENT

OFFICE OF PETITIONS
DEPUTY A/C PATENTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 1998. Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

SA
7-25-00
M.P.B.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 8-11 without prejudice. Kindly amend claim 1 and add new claims 12-18 as follows.

- 1 1. (Amended) An apparatus for filling a pouch having an opening with a product,
- 2 said apparatus comprising:
- 3 a hood having at least one wall defining a passageway, said passageway being open to
- 4 air from outside said hood, said hood having means for dispersing pressurized gas into said
- 5 passageway to displace said air from outside said hood;

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